



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

11-03

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/817,287	04/02/2004	Ying Liu	893-011757-US (PAR)	2314
2512	7590	02/12/2007		
PERMAN & GREEN 425 POST ROAD FAIRFIELD, CT 06824			EXAMINER CHOWDHURY, AFROZA Y	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2609	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/817,287

Applicant(s)

LIU ET AL.

Examiner

Afroza Y. Chowdhury

Art Unit

2609

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/05/2007, 6/28/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 5-7 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 5, **“an apparatus wherein said writing start area is considerably smaller than and has an adaptive location within said handwriting input area,”** it is not clear. What does “said writing start area has an adaptive location” mean. What is the meaning of “adaptive location”?

Regarding claim 6, **“an apparatus wherein said processing device is configured to adjust said adaptive location depending on a current cursor position,”** it is not clear. How does the processing device is configured to adjust said adaptive location?

Regarding claim 7, **“an apparatus wherein said adaptive location is adjustable by a user of the apparatus,”** it is unclear. How the adaptive location is adjustable by a user?

Regarding claim 20, **“a method comprising the further step of adapting a location of said writing start area within said handwriting input area depending on a current cursor position,”** it is indefinite. What does “the adapt a location of said writing start area within said handwriting input area” mean?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-2, 4, 10-13, 16-18, and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Ebrahimi (US Patent 6,424,743).

Regarding claims 1 and 17, Ebrahimi discloses an apparatus for handwriting recognition, the apparatus comprising: a touch-sensitive display screen providing a handwriting input area capable of detecting a handwritten user input (abstract, col. 3, lines 26-30); and a processing device configured to interpret the handwritten user input as a symbol from a plurality of predefined symbols (col. 3, lines 40-65, and fig.2-5, 9(114), 10), wherein the handwriting input area includes a writing start area (col. 1, line 65 – col. 2, line12), wherein the processing device is configured to provide a visual indication of said writing start area on said display screen (col. 1, line 65 – col. 2, line12), and wherein the processing device is configured to interpret the user input as a symbol only if the user input starts within said writing start area (col. 1, line 65 – col. 2, line12).

As to claims 2 and 18, Ebrahimi teaches an apparatus having a user interface in which the display screen is included, wherein the processing device is configured to

Art Unit: 2609

interpret the user input as a user interface control operation and not as a symbol if the user input starts outside of said writing start area (fig. 2-5, col. 3, lines 25-42, and col. 3, line 66 – col. 4, line 3).

Regarding claim 4, Ebrahimi teaches an apparatus wherein said writing start area is considerably smaller than and has a fixed location within said handwriting input area (fig. 2, and 3(44, 46)).

Regarding claims 10, 11, 21 and 22, Ebrahimi discloses an apparatus wherein said user input including at least one pen stroke and said processing device is configured to display, on said display screen, a graphical trace representing said at least one pen stroke prior to the interpretation thereof (fig. 7 and 8).

As to claims 12 and 23, Ebrahimi teaches an apparatus wherein plurality of predefined symbols includes a symbol set selected from the group consisting of: Latin characters, upper case characters, lower case characters, Arabic numerals, punctuation symbols, Cyrillic characters, Chinese characters, Japanese Kanji symbols, Japanese Hiragana characters and Japanese Katakana characters, and user-defined symbols (see fig. 4, Arabic numerals (1,2)).

As to claims 13 and 24, Ebrahimi discloses an apparatus wherein plurality of predefined symbols including a first symbol set (fig. 2-5(a,1)), and a second symbol set (fig. 2-5(b,2)), and said writing start area comprising a first subarea (fig. 1(12), and fig. 2-5(42)) and a second subarea (fig. 1(12), and fig. 2-5(42)), wherein said processing device is configured to interpret the user input as a symbol from said first symbol set if

Art Unit: 2609

the user input starts within said first subarea (fig. 7, 10-14), and as a symbol from said second symbol set if the user input starts within said second subarea (fig. 8, 10-14).

As to claim 16, Ebrahimi teaches an apparatus in the form of a portable/personal digital assistant (PDA) (col. 3, lines 18-20, fig.2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3, 5-9, 14, 15, 19, 20, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebrahimi (US Patent 6,424,743) and Seni (US 2004/02634486).

As to claims 3 and 19, Ebrahimi teaches inputting information using a stylus (col.5, lines 2-4) and display timer(col.5, lines 30-36). He does not teach to interpret the user input as a user interface control operation when pen down event does not followed by a pen move event within a prescribed time period. Seni discloses to interpret the user input as a user control operation when pen measurement is not detected ([0005], [0024], fig. 4(402), (404), (412)). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate Semi's interface control

operation into Ebrahimi's hand held device because this is an advancement for Ebrahimi's device to function both as a writing and a scrolling (mouse).

Regarding claims 5, Ebrahimi teaches an apparatus wherein handwriting start area is smaller (col.3, lines 25-29) than and has a fixed location within said handwriting input area (fig. 2, and fig. 3 (44,46)). He doesn't teach about "adaptive location". However, it would be obvious that an apparatus wherein said writing start area is considerably smaller than and has an adaptive location within said handwriting input area (as Examiner best understood).

As to claims 6, 7, and 20, Ebrahimi discloses processing device (fig. 9(114)) and writing start area (col. 3, lines 25-29). He doesn't teach how to adjust "adaptive location". However, it would be obvious that an apparatus wherein said processing device is configured to adjust said adaptive location depending on a current cursor position (as Examiner best understood).

As to claims 8 and 9, Ebrahimi teaches writing areas (fig. 1(1), and col.3, lines 25-29) and display screen (fig. 1(2)). He doesn't explicitly teach the size of the display screen's available presentation area. However, it would be obvious that an apparatus as wherein said handwriting input area is formed by a majority of the display screen's available presentation area.

As to claims 14 and 25, Ebrahimi discloses a first and second subareas (fig. 1(12), and fig. 2-5(42)), but he failed to teach a third subarea for a third subarea system. However, it would be obvious to increase writing area by adding a third subarea in order to write more symbols.

As to claim 15, Seni teaches a mobile terminal for a mobile telecommunications system ([0003], [0020], [0004]).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Afroza Y. Chowdhury whose telephone number is 571-270-1543. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00 EST, 5/4/9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amare Mengistu can be reached on 571-272-2600. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


AMARE MENGISTU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER